

1.(Currently Amended) A method for operating a radio reception system that includes a plurality of receivers assigned to a common output device, in which one of the receivers is always designated as an audio receiver and is tuned to a frequency of a radio transmitter and outputs a signal received from the transmitter to the output device, and another of the receivers is designated as a search receiver, thesaid method comprising:

stepping the search receiver through its frequency band for a frequency signal value associated with the same transmitter and determining a measure of the signal strength of said the frequency signal value;

comparing the signal strength of the signal received by the search receiver and the signal strength of the signal received by the audio receiver;

tuning the audio receiver to thesaid frequency signal value if the measure of the signal strength of thesaid frequency signal value is better than the measure of the signal strength associated with the current signal received by the audio receiver; and

repeating thesaid steps of stepping, comparing and tuning.

2.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said the step of comparing includes computing the difference between the field strengths, providing a difference signal value indicative thereof, and comparing thesaid difference signal value to a threshold value.

3.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said the threshold value is a fixed threshold value.

4.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said the threshold value is set relative to the quality of a frequency found by the search receiver.

5.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said the step of tuning includes transmitting the frequency found by the search receiver to the audio receiver, and tuning the audio receiver to this frequency.

6.(Currently Amended) A motor vehicle radio reception system, comprising:  
a first receiver that is tuned to receive a signal from a certain transmitter and provide a received signal indicative thereof and a first quality signal indicative of signal strength of thesaid received signal;  
a second receiver that is automatically scanned through its associated reception range to identify a frequency signal value associated with the transmitter and provide a second quality signal indicative of signal strength of a signal associated with thesaid frequency signal value;  
wherein said the first receiver compares thesaid first quality signal and thesaid second quality signal, and tunes to thesaid frequency signal value if thesaid second quality signal indicates a better signal quality than thesaid first quality signal.

7.(Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 6, comprising a bus to which said the first and second receivers are connected and over which thesaid first and second receivers communicate.

8.(Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 7, comprising an audio processing unit coupled to thesaid first receiver to receive thesaid received signal and provide an output signal indicative thereof.

9.(Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 8, comprising a controller that provides command signals to thesaid first receiver and to thesaid audio processing unit.

10.(Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 9, wherein said the audio processing unit includes a microprocessor.

11.(Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 9, wherein said the first receiver and thesaid second receiver each include their own uniquely associated antenna.

12.(Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 7, wherein said the second receiver receives an identification signal over thesaid bus indicative of the transmitter.

13.(Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 7, wherein said the bus comprises a MOST bus.

14.(Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 12, wherein said the first receiver transmits said the identification signal onto thesaid bus.